

Adoption Facts

- The goal of Michigan's Adoption Services Program is to place children in adoption as quickly as possible following termination of parental rights.
- Whenever possible, these placements are with families that already have an existing relationship or attachment to the child (relatives and foster parents) where siblings are placed together in an adoptive home.

During Fiscal Year 2002

- There were 2,833 adoptions finalized in through FIA offices and private adoption agencies.
- A relative or foster parent adopted 91 percent of those children.
- 54 percent of children adopted were age 6 years or older.
- 80 percent were adopted with at least one sibling.
- Approximately 6,400 children are in FIA foster care with their parental rights terminated. Approximately 4,600 of those children have a goal of adoption. The remaining are either older youths who are satisfied with their placements and do not wish to be adopted or youth with other living arrangements where adoption is not appropriate. Of those 4,600 with a goal of adoption, most have a family identified and the FIA is actively looking for homes for about 400 children without an identified adoptive family.

How it works

- The Adoption Services Program provides services to children whose parental rights have been terminated due to child abuse or neglect and to families that want to adopt.
- Services are provided either directly by local office FIA adoption staff or through adoption purchase of service contracts with approximately 50 private Michigan child-placing agencies.
- Children receiving adoption services are in foster care and generally have special needs – the child is older, a member of a racial minority, part of a sibling group that needs to be placed together, and/or a child with physical, mental, or emotional impairments.
- The FIA Adoption Services Division is responsible for administration of adoption policy, adoption contract management, adoption subsidy and medical subsidy and other post-adoption services including Post Adoption Resource Centers, Central Adoption Registry and Inquiry and the Michigan Children's Institute.

Barriers to Adoption

Children available are permanent state wards who cannot return to their birth home. These children often have special psychological needs as a result of being victims of abuse and neglect. They may be emotionally guarded and apprehensive about accepting placement in an adoptive home. Children may be older and/or have siblings with whom they should be adopted or maintain contact. Families wishing to adopt children from the foster care system need to be prepared to face the challenges of providing permanency in a nurturing environment.

For more information

- For more information on **Michigan Adoption Day** go to this Internet web site:
www.courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/Press/MichiganAdoptionDayIndex.htm
- For more information on **children awaiting adoption in Michigan** go to www.mare.org
- For more information on **public adoption policies and data** go to www.michigan.gov/fia and click on "Adoption"